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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/601,010 | 07/25/2000 | Hiroyasu Kurashina | 81752.0090 | 5151 |
| 24943 | 7590 | 10/28/2004 | EXAMINER | |
| INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW GROUP LLP 12 SOUTH FIRST STREET SUITE 1205 SAN JOSE, CA 95113 | | | LAMB, TWYLER MARIE | |
| | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER | |
| | | | 2622 | |

DATE MAILED: 10/28/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| | 09/601,010 | KURASHINA, HIROYASU |
| Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Twyler M. Lamb | 2622 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 August 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,8,16,38-41,43,44,47,50,51 and 58-60 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,8,16,38-41,43,44,47,50,51 and 58-60 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Withdrawal of Finality

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 8, 16, 38-41, 43-44, 47, 50 and 58-60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sakuragi et al. (Sakuragi) (US 5,609,424).

With regard to claims 1 and 8, Sakuragi discloses an image printing method comprising: a regular character string registration step of registering a character string having at least one character as a regular character string (col 9, lines 7-15; col 13, lines 55-64); a regular printing instruction step of instructing regular printing for printing said regular character string, irrespective of whether or not a character string other than said regular character string is being input or edited (col 13, lines 39-47); and a regular printing step of printing a regular character string image corresponding to said regular character string on a printing object as a print image when said regular printing is instructed (col 13, lines 39-47); wherein a plurality of types of regular character strings can be registered as said regular character strings (col 7, lines 25-28, lines 41-44; col 8,

lines 43-44) (fixed label names also read on {regular or repetitive} character strings) (col 7, lines 17-25); and a regular printing image selection step of selecting anyone of said plurality of types of regular character strings as a regular character string to be printed by said regular printing (col 13, lines 39-47); said regular printing image selection step including an identifier display step of displaying a plurality of types of identifiers corresponding respectively to said plurality of types of regular character strings on a predetermined display screen; and an identifier selection step of selecting anyone of said plurality of types of identifiers (col 13, lines 39-47).

With regard to claims 16 and 38, Sakuragi also discloses further including a related character string registration step of registering said regular character string as a representative character string, and registering at least one character string related to said representative character string as related character strings, such that said related character strings are correlated with said representative character string, to thereby construct one regular character string group including said representative character string as a representative thereof (col 9, lines 7-15; col 13, lines 55-64), and wherein said regular printing step includes a related character string printing step of printing, when a representative character string image corresponding to said representative character string is printed as said regular character string image, at least one related character string image corresponding to at least one of said related character strings such that said at least one related character string image accompanies said representative character string image (col 13, lines 39-47).

With regard to claim 39, Sakuragi also discloses wherein said related character string printing means prints at least one predetermined related character string image of said related character strings such that said at least one predetermined related character string image accompanies said representative character string image (col 13, lines 39-47).

With regard to claim 40, Sakuragi also discloses wherein a plurality of types of related character strings can be registered as said related character strings, wherein said related character string printing means includes: related print image selection means for selecting at least one arbitrary related character string of said related character strings (col 7, lines 25-28, lines 41-44; col 8, lines 43-44) (fixed label names also read on {regular or repetitive} character strings) (col 7, lines 17-25); and related print image printing means for printing said at least one selected arbitrary related character string such that said at least one selected arbitrary related character string accompanies said representative character string image (col 13, lines 39-47).

With regard to claim 41, Sakuragi also discloses wherein a plurality of types of regular character strings can be registered as said regular character strings, the image printing apparatus further including regular printing image selection means for selecting any of said plurality of types of regular character strings as a regular character string to be printed by said regular printing (col 7, lines 25-28, lines 41-44; col 8, lines 43-44) (fixed label names also read on {regular or repetitive} character strings) (col 7, lines 17-25; col 13, lines 39-47).

With regard to claim 43, Sakuragi also discloses wherein said regular character string group is registered such that said representative character string corresponding to said identifier is registered separately therefrom as one type of said related character string (col 7, lines 25-28, lines 41-44; col 8, lines 43-44) (fixed label names also read on {regular or repetitive} character strings) (col 7, lines 17-25).

With regard to claim 44, Sakuragi also discloses wherein assuming that predetermined two identifiers included in said plurality of types of identifiers are defined as a first identifier and a second identifier, and regular character string groups corresponding to said first identifier and said second identifier are defined as a first regular character string group and a second regular character string group respectively, at least one of related character strings of said second regular character string group is included in related character strings of said first regular character string group, as a common related character string (col 7, lines 25-28, lines 41-44; col 8, lines 43-44) (fixed label names also read on {regular or repetitive} character strings) (col 7, lines 17-25).

With regard to claim 47, Sakuragi also discloses wherein said regular print image selection means includes: identifier display means (display 4) for displaying said plurality of types of identifiers on a predetermined display screen (col 9, lines 29-36; col 12, lines 51-64); and identifier selection means for selecting any of said plurality of types of identifiers (col 12, lines 63-67).

With regard to claim 50, Sakuragi also discloses wherein said regular print image selection means further includes: display-restoring information storage means for

storing display-restoring information required for restoring contents currently displayed on said predetermined display screen before displaying said plurality of types of identifiers; and display restoration means for restoring said contents displayed on said predetermined display screen at said time of storing said display-restoring information, based on said display-restoring information, after selection of said identifier (which reads on displaying default information) (col 2, lines 60-64; col 7, lines 45-67).

With regard to claim 58, Sakuragi also discloses further including arbitrary character string entry means for entering an arbitrary character string having at least one character string, wherein said regular character string registration means registers said arbitrary character string as one type of a regular character string other than said regular character string (col 7, lines 25-28, lines 41-44; col 8, lines 43-44) (fixed label names also read on {regular or repetitive} character strings) (col 7, lines 17-25).

With regard to claim 59, Sakuragi also discloses further including: arbitrary printing instruction means for instructing arbitrary printing for printing said arbitrary character string entered: and arbitrary printing means for printing an arbitrary character string image corresponding to said arbitrary character string as said print image when said arbitrary printing is instructed (col 13, lines 39-47).

With regard to claim 60, Sakuragi also discloses wherein said printing object is a tape (col 5, lines 22-32).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakuragi et al. (Sakuragi) (US 5,609,424) in view of King Jim Co., LTD (King) (EP0849687 A2).

With regard to claim 51 Sakuragi does not teach wherein said regular character string includes a character string representative of at least one of a person's name, an appellation, and a name of a division to which a person belongs.

King discloses a character information processor that includes wherein said regular character string includes a character string representative of at least one of a person's name, an appellation, and a name of a division to which a person belongs (col 8, lines 18-22).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Sakuragi to include wherein said regular character string includes a character string representative of at least one of a person's name, an appellation, and a name of a division to which a person belongs as taught by King. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Sakuragi by the teaching of King to input character strings that could

represent at least one of a person's name, an appellation, and a name of a division to which a person belongs as taught by King in col 8, lines 18-22.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 2/17/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues Sakuragi contains no disclosure or suggestion with respect to treating the "regular character string" and "a character string other than the regular character string" separately so that the regular printing is instructed to print the regular character string irrespective of whether or not the character string other than the regular character string is being input or edited.

Examiner cited new portions of the text to better show that Sakuragi discloses a regular character string registration step of registering a character string having at least one character as a regular character string. From reading the explanation of "regular character string" from the specification, it is understood by the Examiner that "regular character string" is one that is repetitive. This being the case, Sakuragi teaches on repetitive character strings being registered or stored (col 7, lines 25-28, lines 41-44; col 8, lines 43-44) (fixed label names also read on {regular or repetitive} character strings) (col 7, lines 17-25).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Twyler M. Lamb whose telephone number is 703-308-8823. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thurs 6:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on 703-305-4712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Twyler M. Lamb
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2622